

Tarrant County Master Gardeners



TEXAS A & M AGRILIFE EXTENSION AGENCY

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Union Gospel Mission

By Patti Maness

I love being a member of Tarrant County Master Gardeners. I have made so many new friends that love gardening as much as I do. There are endless opportunities to help your community.

One of my favorite projects is Union Gospel Mission, headed by Gay Larson. We meet every Monday.

Periodically when the mission gardening is caught up Gay gets us involved with other projects that need our help.

Gay sends an email message every Sunday so we know exactly what to expect on Monday. Another

bonus is the horticultural lesson she plans each week with snacks in an A/C room after we garden.

Photo below left: The UGM group at Friendship Circle
Photo below right: Some of the UGM ladies taking a break



Why Do You Love Your Favorite MG Project?

By Lorie Grandclair-Diaz

It is such a pleasure to read about why Patti enjoys volunteering at the Union Gospel Mission. Patti, thanks for sharing!

I would like to invite you to email me about why it is that you love your favorite MG project. Having a volunteer write about the project instead of the Project Lead is really powerful! (and Project Leads, I know that you too are volunteers, just really busy ones!) You needn't be

worried about misspelling a word, or your grammar...I'll be sure to proof read it carefully. And if you can send a few pictures that would be even better!

Here's one of the reasons Union Gospel Mission is my favorite project: Every single time I garden there, I learn something from the other Master Gardeners. What an amazing amount of knowledge these folks have!

——Lorie Grandclair-Diaz



Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Look What We Dug Up!

Gardener's work brightens way for others



by Nancy Connally

"I like my charge account at Clear Fork Materials better than my charge account at Neiman's."

Those words from Gay Larson hint at her love of, and devotion to, gardening. Her love for growing things led Gay to become one of six Master Gardeners in the Aledo area.

When she and husband Rolf moved to Deer Creek several years ago, Gay landscaped their new home. "He build me a flower bed every year," Gay explained.

And when she ran out of room for flowerbeds at home, Gay took on maintenance of the front entrance to Deer Creek Plantation. "I learned who my neighbors are because I'm so 'high profile,'" Gay laughed. She continues the work today, aided by reimbursements from area residents.

Gay's talents were noted and she was asked to teach a 4-H Horticulture Class. She looked around for a project and decided that Aledo City Hall need an outdoor clean up.

This year's 4-H project was the re-landscaping of the Aledo Community Center. Fifteen 4-H'ers participated. The Community Center gave the money for landscaping and the plants were donated.

Her love of plants also caused Gay to answer a call for volunteers at the Union Gospel Mission, a shelter for the homeless. During a Sunday service at McKinney Bible Church, she found out the home needed landscaping and decided she would like to help.

Gay showed up at the shelter "all dressed up" and found the place desolate, with only a few blades of grass. One look at the wrought-iron fence with concertina on the top made her seriously consider not even getting out of the car.

But Gay did get out of her car and she met a woman she had known years before. A woman who had been living at the shelter for three years. Gay was no longer a stranger.

Since that day, Gay has been instrumental in building seven large flowerbeds and managing to have all the supplies donated. They are now landscaping the other side of the building for a walking path and butterfly garden.

This is in addition to a raised 16'x16' vegetable and herb garden. "It gives the residents something to tend and take care of," Gay said.

Her commitment to the Master Gardener program means she also volunteers at the Extension Office,

providing guidance and information to those who call the County Agent with gardening and landscape questions.

"It's a way to put back into the community what we have learned," Gay explained.

The Master Gardener Program, sponsored by the Tarrant County Extension Service, brings speakers and professors from Texas A&M University to classes at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens Center.

When students complete their volunteer hours, and the 72 hours of classroom work, they have the equivalent knowledge of a horticulture graduate from Texas A&M.

Gay is involved with the Children's Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens and writes a gardening column for the Deer Creek Homeowner's Association.

Her fondness for landscaping has been her avenue to learning. It has also led her to volunteer work and active involvement in her neighborhood.

As luck would have it, none of her children like gardening. "Probably because I'm obsessed with it," she said philosophically.

"But they all like to look at it and they are proud of what I have done."

An article from 20 years ago featuring our own Gay Larson. She says she doesn't know where they came up with becoming a Master Gardener is the equivalent of a horticultural degree! Although we are pretty knowledgeable!

Ways and Means

By Sue Kelley

Ways and Means is again offering the opportunity to purchase an engraved brick for the pathway in the Resource Connection Community & Demonstration Gardens. The engraved bricks provide opportunity to honor or memorialize someone special to you. This year, 2017, marks the 30th anniversary of the Association as well as the 10 anniversary of the garden! What a great way to commemorate such an occasion! Congratulations to us!



From the President's Corner

By Judy Ratzlaff

July started off hot. To all who have been volunteering out in the heat, a **BIG** thanks. *This dedication to Tarrant County and it's communities is what makes our Association thrive. Your commitment year round, in all season's, at all activities, is deeply appreciated and recognized.*

Sharing my month: I know that many of you are out and around on vacationing. I hope you are having a wonderful time. I was in Colorado and we had a few days of rain that was needed badly for the drought....but the temperatures were unusually high. In the Denver/Colorado Springs area it was in the high 90's during the day and high 60's at night. As some of you know, most do not have air-conditioning. I realized how lucky we are to have air-conditioning, then you think how did we live without it growing up!



The trip was a nice short break to visit a new great grand child, so bring on the heat, I will survive.

So note to self and all, if you're working outside, stay hydrated, wear protective clothing, rest often and enjoy that we can share love of gardening.

Reminders:

1. Sign up for the **April 4-6 2018 State Conference**, rooms are filling up. Information is on our website and the state website. www.tarrantmg.org www.tcmga.org <https://txmg.org>

2. Directors Meeting-3rd Quarter-8/12/2017-TAMU

3. Turn in your hours by the 31st. Hoping we have more hours than last year at year end.

www.texas.volunteersystem.org

4. If you do not have a computer and need help recording your hours, **document the information**

and bring it to the August meeting, we can help you....see Mary Reagor, Debbie Rasmussen or I can direct you to someone who can help.

5. August Meeting is a Salad Lunch. Watch for Nancy Taylor's request for salad's, sides and desserts.

6. Hat Contest!!!! At the **November MG Meeting** we will have a member wide hat contest. Begin thinking and planning your creative garden hat, functional or funny. 1st, 2nd and 3rd gift cards awarded. Our judges will not be TCMGA Members.

I hope to see you Thursday August 3rd at our Monthly Meeting, if you're vacationing have a great trip.

Many hugs....stay cool,



Master Gardeners in the Kitchen

From the Kitchen of Lena Goff

Fresh vegetable salad - serves 8—12

Ingredients

Dressing:

- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons finely diced jalapeno (optional)
- 1 teaspoon celery seed
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Salad:

- 1 small zucchini, finely chopped
- 1 small yellow squash, finely chopped
- 4 ears yellow corn, cooked, cooled, and cut off the cob
- 2 large tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 6 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 cucumber, chopped
- 1/2 red onion, finely chopped

Instructions

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together sour cream, mayonnaise, vinegar, jalapeno, celery seed, salt, and pepper until smooth. Set aside to let the flavors marry while you prepare the veggies.
2. In a large bowl, mix all vegetables together..
3. Pour dressing over vegetables and gently mix together until well combined. Serve immediately.



Sensational Summer Salad Potluck!

It's hot outside, so let's cool off with some Sensational Summer Salads! At our August 3 Master Gardener meeting bring your favorite salad. We'll supply coffee, iced tea and lemonade.

Tarrant County Master Gardeners

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered at community events. Tarrant County Master Gardeners have been a part of 27 events so far this year with eight more scheduled for the rest of the year. We made first time appearances at local farmers markets.

There will be a signup table at the August MG meeting. There are a variety of events coming up from the home and garden show, farmers markets and Arlington EcoFest. Sign up at the meeting or contact Patsy.

Coming up is the August Home and Garden Show at Will Rogers Memorial Center, August 18-20. Shifts are:

Thursday, August 17, help set up. Tentatively 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Friday, August 18 — 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.; 4:30 p.m. -7 p.m.

Saturday, August 19 — 10 a.m.—2:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m.—7 p.m.

Sunday, August 20—11 a.m.— 2 p.m.; 2—5 p.m.

Parking will be paid for two cars each shift. Carpooling is encouraged. You can arrange to meet at Botanic Garden or BRIT. Turn in reimbursement form to treasurer.

Other events are:

August 26 — Yard Smart, 8 a.m.— 1 p.m., Fort Worth Botanic Garden

September 16

8 a.m.-noon — Cowtown Farmers Market, Weatherford Traffic Circle, 3821 Southwest Blvd., Fort Worth

8 a.m.-1 p.m. —Viridian Artisan Market, Overlook Park, 1210 Viridian Park, Arlington

September 23, 8 a.m.-noon — Keller Farmers Market, 1100 Bear Creek Parkway, Keller

October 8, 10 a.m.—4 p.m. —Nature Conservancy Open Days, Master Gardener Desk at one of the tour homes. Shifts to be announced.

October 14, 8 a.m.— noon — Keller Farmers Market, 1100 Bear Creek Parkway, Keller

October 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. — Arlington EcoFest, downtown Arlington

Important August Dates

Thursday, August 3 Master Gardener Monthly Meeting

Saturday, August 12 Directors Meeting—3rd quarter TAMU

Thursday, August 17, Advisory Board Meeting & Executive Committee meeting

There are no Tarrant County office closures in August

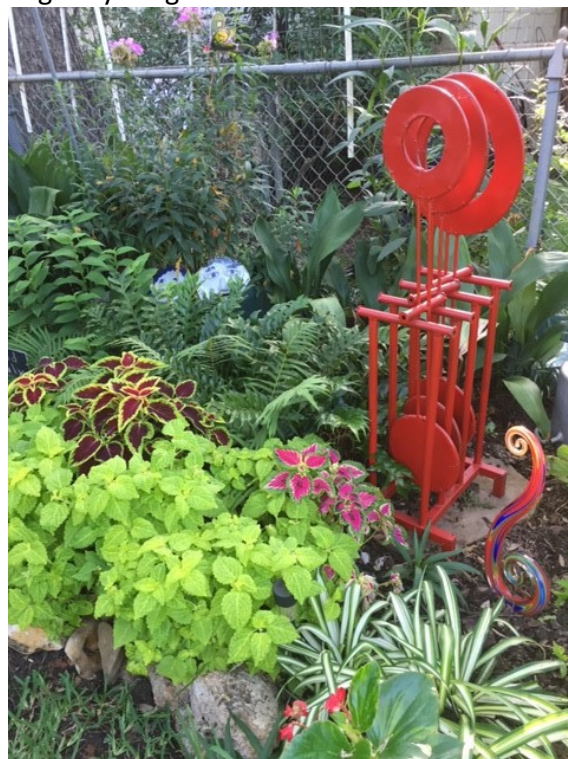
What's Blooming in Your Garden?

By Lorie Grandclair-Diaz

Every month I look around the Master Gardener monthly meeting and see folks all over with their phones pulled out, showing off garden pictures to their friends. Let's share them with the entire Association! Email me, (Lorie) jpeg pictures of cool things in your garden



I'll go first! My current favorite container.
Lorie Grandclair-Diaz



Coleus, ferns and an awesome sculpture!
Margaret Shuping



Below, Desert Rose. Lorie Grandclair-Diaz
Left, caladiums from MG sale. Margaret Shuping



What's Blooming in Your Garden?



Above, Debra Rosenthal
Right, Wanda Stutzman



Left, bumble bee
on vitex in Nancy
Taylor's garden.



Right, Chocolate
flower in Nancy
Taylor's garden.